

# WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



Department of Dance  
College of Fine Arts

## 100 WAYS TO BE A DANCER CAREERS IN DANCE AND RELATED FIELDS

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### Dance Performance

Traditional contract dance companies  
Project-base/pick-up companies  
Musical theatre performer  
National Tours, Broadway Shows  
Music videos/concert tours  
Cruise ships  
Disney & theme parks  
Night clubs (Vegas, etc.)  
Commercial/Industrial work

### Dance Choreography & Direction

Artistic director  
Concert dance choreographer  
Creative dance artist  
Dance video/dance for camera  
Dance Dramaturg  
Musical theatre choreographer  
Studio/competition choreographer  
Rehearsal director  
Stager/Répeteur/Reconstructor  
Dance captain  
Ballet Master/Mistress

### Dance Education/Teaching

Dance studios  
Dance conservatories  
K-12 dance programs  
Magnet school programs  
Physical education programs  
Cheer/dance team coaches  
Athletic programs/gymnastics  
Community outreach programs  
Company school teacher  
Competition Adjudicator  
Convention Instructor  
Competition/Convention Judge  
Independent teacher/artist  
University dance teacher – adjunct  
Professor of dance  
Dance historian/scholar

### Dance Science and Physiology

Dance movement therapist  
Physical therapist for dancers  
Occupational therapist  
Massage therapist  
Athletic trainer/sports medicine  
Medicine or chiropractic  
Exercise physiology/biomechanics  
Holistic health  
Dietitian

### Related Movement Practices

Yoga Instructor  
Pilates Instructor  
Body-Mind Centering  
Feldenkrais Method  
Alexander Technique  
Barre Fitness Instructor  
Zumba Instructor  
Aerobics Instructor  
Personal Trainer  
& other somatic practices

### Dance Production

Production Manager  
Stage Manager  
Technical Director  
Tour Manager  
Lighting Designer  
Projections Designer  
Master Electrician / Electrician  
Light Board Operator/Programmer  
Stage Hand  
Costume Designer/Constructor  
Wardrobe manager  
Wardrobe assistant  
Set Designer  
Master carpenter  
Sound Operator  
House Manager

### Dance/Arts Administration

Dance studio owner/director  
Owner/director fitness studio  
Corporate wellness director/admin.  
Company school director  
Program director (workshops, etc.)  
Principal, performing arts school  
Chair/Director, university program  
Company executive director  
Company general office manager  
Company booking director  
Personnel manager/HR director  
Accountant/bookkeeper  
Special events coordinator  
Development/fundraising director  
Membership/giving director  
Grant writer  
Database manager/data analyst  
Education/outreach director  
Attorney/lawyer for the arts  
Administrative assistants  
Receptionists

### Media & Promotion

Marketing director  
Director of social media engagement  
Public relations/press manager  
Casting/talent agent  
Booking agent  
Advertising Agent  
Graphic Designer  
Photographer / Videographer  
Website developer  
Librarian/archivist  
Dance writer/critic  
Dance advocate/arts lobbyist

### Who employs dancers?

Dance companies (local, regional, national)  
Independent dance/performance artists  
Community/Regional Theatres  
Entertainment Industry  
Arts organizations  
Dance Studios/Conservatories  
Public/Private Schools (K-12)  
Dance Conventions/Competitions/Pageants

Gyms/Fitness Centers  
Physical Therapy Centers  
Corporate wellness programs  
Children's & Community Outreach Programs  
Foundations & Granting Organizations  
Federal, state, and local Arts Councils (NEA)  
Colleges & Universities  
Magazines/Online Publications

**Transferable Skills** are skills acquired from your jobs, volunteering, hobbies or life experiences that may be of interest to a future employer. A degree in the arts, and dance especially, can make you unique to an employer. Your experiences are different than those of your non-dancer peers, and may make you a better candidate for any job.

#### **TRANSFERABLE SKILLS** from a degree in dance:

- Critical thinking and application of ideas through learned experience
- Communication skills
- Creative problem solving
- Strong work ethic
- Self-motivated, ambitious
- Desire to learn & improve
- Results oriented, sees plans through
- Time management skills
- Punctual, reliable, meets deadlines
- Insightful
- Adaptable
- Cultured
- Open-minded
- Able to respond to multiple perspectives
- Logical
- Can remember information accurately
- Able to overcome adversity, work through problems and difficulties
- Research skills

#### **Collaboration and Teamwork Skills:**

- Experienced collaborator
- Supportive of peers/colleagues
- Patient
- Team builder
- Follows direction well
- Works well with others
- Can anticipate needs
- Able to handle confrontation
- Diplomatic
- Outgoing
- Enthusiastic

#### **Key Leadership Skills:**

- Ability to direct others
- Experience with shared leadership
- Ability to plan and execute projects
- Can organize and motivate people
- Solve problems
- Able to demonstrate/explain
- Able to speak or present in public
- Ability to delegate
- Decisive
- Willingness to take risks
- Able to empower others
- Confident

**EXPERIENCES** that demonstrate your transferable skills of interest to employers:

- Dance Training/Studio Work
- Dance rehearsal/working with a choreographer
- Choreographing for peers or students
- Other dance coursework (dance science, history, pedagogy, music, etc.)
- Dance performance (as performer, choreographer, dance production/management)
- Teaching dance
- Independent study or practicum experiences including senior capstone projects
- Leadership and experiences within dance student organizations, particularly fundraising or community outreach
- Summer/Winter study and workshops (ADF, Bates, Jacob's Pillow, etc)
- Guest artist residencies and master classes, Summer/Winter study and workshops, participation in national organizations (American College Dance Festival, etc.)